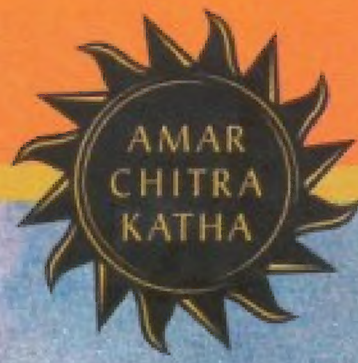
UDAYANA



Udayana

An Adaptation of a Famous
Sanskrit Play by Bhasa



Illustrated Classics From India

Udayana

Adapted from Bhasa's Swapna-Vasavadatta

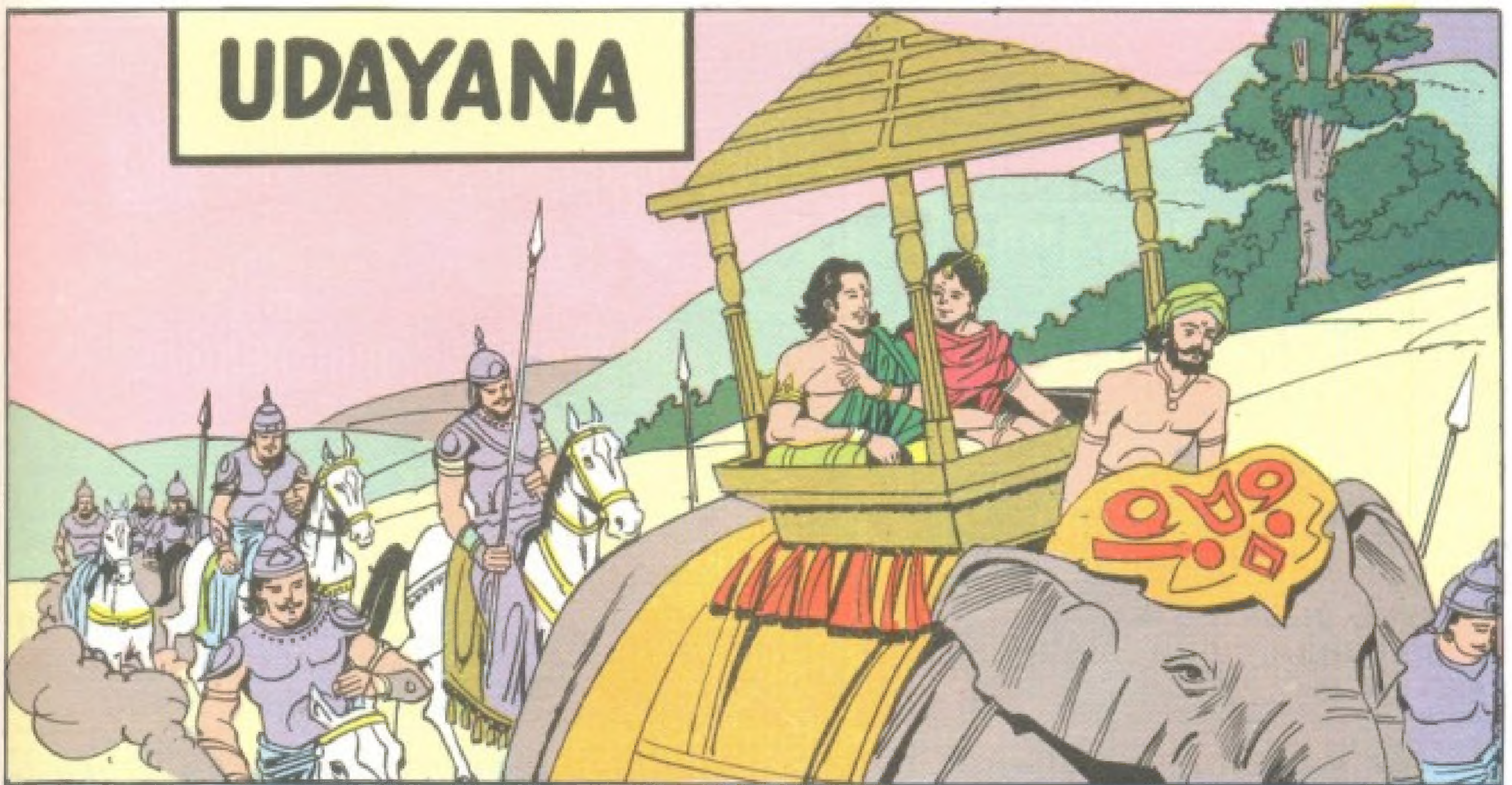
The story of King Udayana of Kaushambi is an interesting one, adapted from the Sanskrit play Swapna-Vasavadatta attributed to the playwright Bhasa. It is one of the 13 Sanskrit dramas discovered in 1912 by Pandit Ganapati Shastri in South India. Bhasa probably belonged to a period some 100-200 years before the great poet Kalidasa (who lived in the 4th century AD), as Kalidasa often referred to Bhasa with reverence.

This tale opens in the midst of political turmoil, the kingdom of Kaushambi is under threat. King Udayana, besotted with his new queen, had been neglecting his royal duties. To save the kingdom, Udayana's beloved queen Vasavadatta disguises as Avantika and begins to live with Princess Padmavati of Magadha as her maid, unbeknownst to Udayana. All this is done under the instruction and supervision of their wise and loyal minister Yaugandharayana. Ironically, to save the kingdom of Kaushambi, Udayana is destined to marry Padmavati.

Stories of Udayana and Vasavadatta were well-known in the world of ancient Indian literature. The story described in this Amar Chitra Katha is exciting and romantic, complete with twists and turns, hidden identities and secret agendas.

Script: Kamala Chandrakant   Illustrations: H.S. Chavan

UDAYANA



UDAYANA, KING OF VATSA, HELPED BY HIS LOYAL OLD MINISTER, YAUGANDHARAYANA, HAD ELOPED WITH VASAVADATTA, THE DAUGHTER OF KING PRADYOTA OF AVANTI. HE TOOK HER FROM UJJAINI, THE CAPITAL OF AVANTI, TO KAUSHAMBI. HIS OWN.

AT KAUSHAMBI, UDAYANA FOUND TIME ONLY FOR HIS WIFE AND NEGLECTED HIS ROYAL DUTIES.



YAUGANDHARAYANA WAS WORRIED.




AT THAT MOMENT RUMANVAN, ANOTHER MINISTER, CHARGED INTO THE HALL.
ARUNI'S TROOPS ARE CLOSING IN ON KAUSHAMBI— AND ON US.
THE KING! I MUST GET HIM AWAY TO SAFETY. HARNESS THE CHARIOT.


YOUR MAJESTY, WE MUST LEAVE FOR LAVANAKA IMMEDI-ATELY. THERE IS NO TIME TO EXPLAIN.


UDAYANA HAD FULL FAITH IN YAUGANDHARA-YANA AND DID NOT QUESTION HIM.
RUMANVAN IS BRINGING THE CHARIOT.


SOON, UDAYANA, VASAVADATTA, RUMANVAN, YAUGANDHARAYANA, VASANTAKA (THE COURT JESTER) AND A FEW ATTENDANTS LEFT FOR LAVANAKA. ON THE WAY—
YOUR MAJESTY, ARUNI'S TROOPS ARE STORMING KAUSHAMBI.
LET THEM. RIGHT NOW MY HEART KNOWS NO STORMS. IT IS FULL OF LOVE.

SETTING UP CAMP AT LAVANAKA, YAUGANDHARAYANA FOUND TIME TO RELAX, THINK AND PLAN.

THE KING IS IN A DAZE. I MUST DEFEND KAUSHAMBI AND REGAIN ALL LOST TERRITORY.

DARSHAKA OF MAGHADA COULD BE THE POWERFUL ALLY I NEED FOR THIS. HE IS AS MIGHTY AS PRADYOTA.

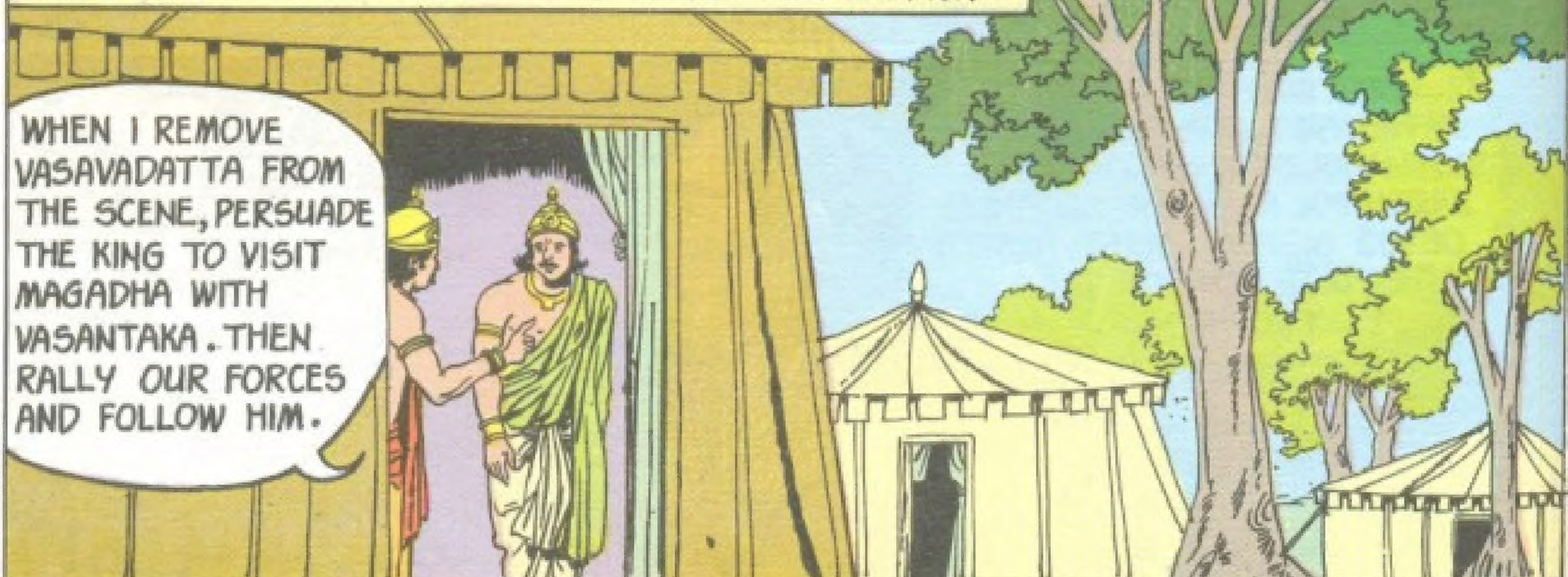
IT IS PROPHESIED THAT UDAYANA WILL MARRY DARSHAKA'S SISTER, PADMAVATI, AND ONLY THEN WILL ARUNI BE CRUSHED. IF ONLY OUR KING WOULD APPROACH DARSHAKA FOR HER HAND. BUT...

...BUT WITH VASAVADATTA BY HIS SIDE, UDAYANA WILL NOT HEAR OF THIS NOR WILL DARSHAKA RISK THE HAPPINESS OF HIS SISTER. I MUST HASTEN THE FULFILMENT OF THE PROPHECY.


THE MORE HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE GREATER WAS HIS CONVICTION THAT HE NEEDED VASAVADATTA AS AN ACCOMPLICE.
O WISE QUEEN, I NEED YOUR HELP TO SAVE THE KINGDOM AND YOUR LORD, THE KING.
I AM MOST WILLING TO HELP. WHAT CAN I DO?


WILL YOU DO AS I SAY, ASKING NO QUESTIONS?
I HAVE FULL FAITH IN YOUR LOYALTY TO MY LORD AND TO ME.


YAUGANDHARAYANA THEN WENT TO RUMANVAN.
I HAVE A PLAN TO SAVE THE KINGDOM. WHEN OUR KING MARRIES THE PRINCESS OF MAGADHA...
NO. HE WON'T. NOT AS LONG AS VASAVA-DATTA IS ALIVE.


YAUGANDHARAYANA UNFOLDED HIS PLANS TO RUMANVAN.
WHEN I REMOVE VASAVADATTA FROM THE SCENE, PERSUADE THE KING TO VISIT MAGADHA WITH VASANTAKA. THEN RALLY OUR FORCES AND FOLLOW HIM.


A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN UDAYANA WAS OUT HUNTING —
MY LADY, GO AND WAIT AT SOME DISTANCE FROM THE CAMP. I WILL JOIN YOU THERE.


YAUGANDHARAYANA THEN WENT TO RUMANVAN.
GET THE MEN OUT OF THEIR TENTS ON ANY PRETEXT. SAY YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.


AS SOON AS RUMANVAN HAD COLLECTED THE MEN AROUND HIM, YAUGANDHARAYANA SET FIRE TO VASAVADATTA'S TENT.


BY THE TIME THE MEN NOTICED THE FIRE, QUITE A FEW TENTS WERE ABLAZE.
FIRE! FIRE!
RUN!
THE QUEEN! WHERE IS SHE?
OH! NO! SHE WAS IN HER TENT.


YAUGANDHARAYANA DASHED TOWARDS THE TENT.
THERE GOES THE FAITHFUL MINISTER TO SAVE HER.
COME. LET US GO TO OUR TENTS AND SALVAGE WHAT WE CAN.


WHEN THE MEN WERE BUSY ELSEWHERE, YAUGANDHARAYANA CAME OUT FROM BEHIND THE TENT...


...AND WENT UP TO VASAVADATTA.
QUICK, MY LADY. FOLLOW ME.


THE TWO OF THEM SLIPPED AWAY, UNNOTICED.
MY LADY, YOU MUST NOT DISCLOSE YOUR IDENTITY TO UDAYANA OR ANYONE ELSE TILL I GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.
I WON'T.
I WILL LEAVE HER IN THE CARE OF THE PRINCESS OF MAGADHA ON SOME PRETEXT.

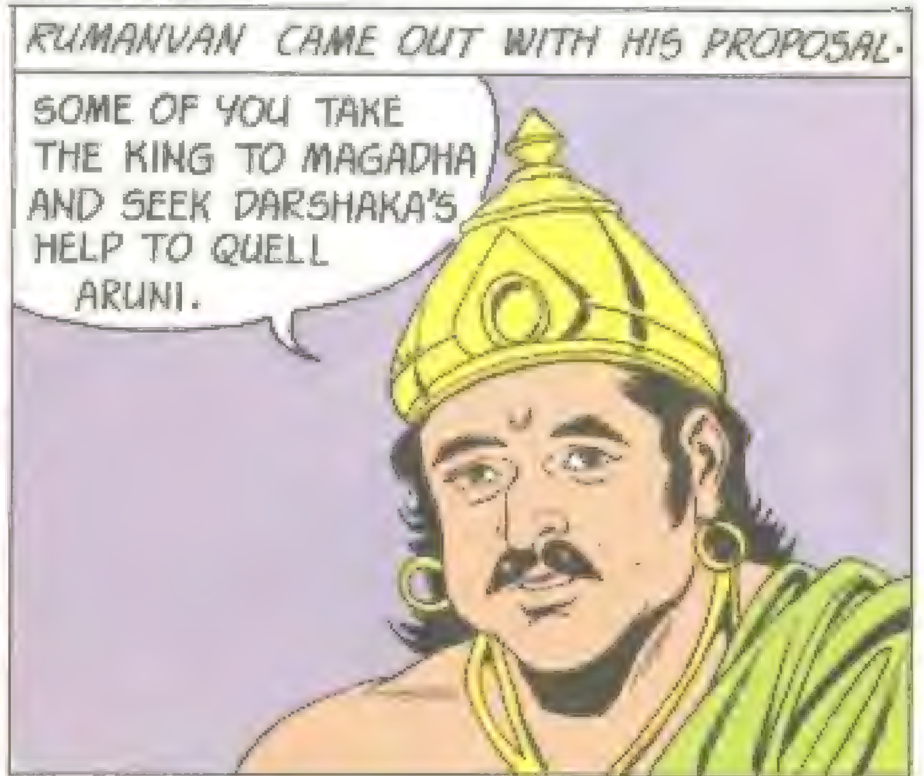

A FEW HOURS LATER, UDAYANA RETURNED TO THE CAMP.
A FIRE! WHERE IS VASAVADATTA? WHY RUMANVAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE QUEEN AND YAUGANDHARAYANA HAVE PERISHED IN THE FIRE.


UDAYANA WAS BESIDE HIMSELF WITH GRIEF.
VASAVADATTA, MY DEAR QUEEN! THERE IS NO LIFE FOR ME WITHOUT YOU.

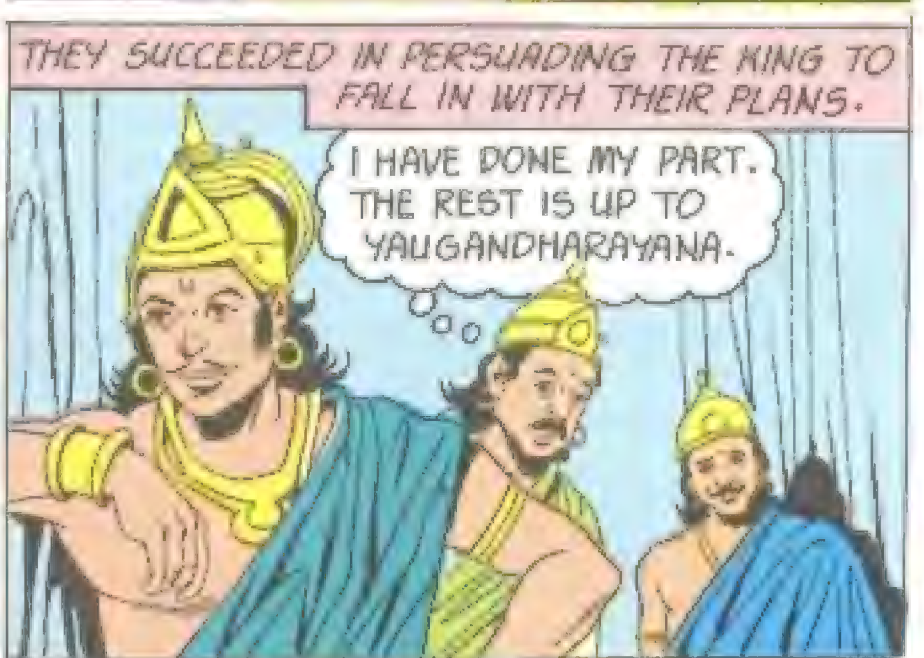

UDAYANA PICKED UP THE CHARRED REMAINS OF VASAVADATTA'S ORNAMENTS.


RUMANVAN TRIED TO CONSOLE HIM BUT DID NOT SUCCEED.
THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE SHE SAT ENTRANCED AS I PLAYED THE VEENA FOR HER. THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE WE HAD OUR FIRST QUARREL.









MEANWHILE YAUGANDHARAYANA, DISGUISED AS A HERMIT WITH VASAVADATTA AS HIS YOUNGER SISTER, REACHED A FOREST NEAR RAJAGRIHA, THE CAPITAL OF MAGADHA.




WHEN THEY REACHED THE HERMITAGE —
CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE PRINCESS.
THIS HUMILIATION IS MORE PAINFUL TO ME THAN ALL THE HARDSHIPS OF THE JOURNEY.


THE PROCESSION HALTED IN FRONT OF THE HERMITAGE. A HERALD STEPPED OUT.
PADMAVATI, THE SISTER OF OUR GREAT KING DARSHAKA, IS ON HER WAY TO RAJA-GRIHA. SHE WILL HALT HERE FOR THE NIGHT.


SO THIS IS THE PRINCESS, UDAYANA IS DESTINED TO MARRY. FATE HAS MADE MY TASK EASIER.
I AM DRAWN TO HER AS IF TO A SISTER!

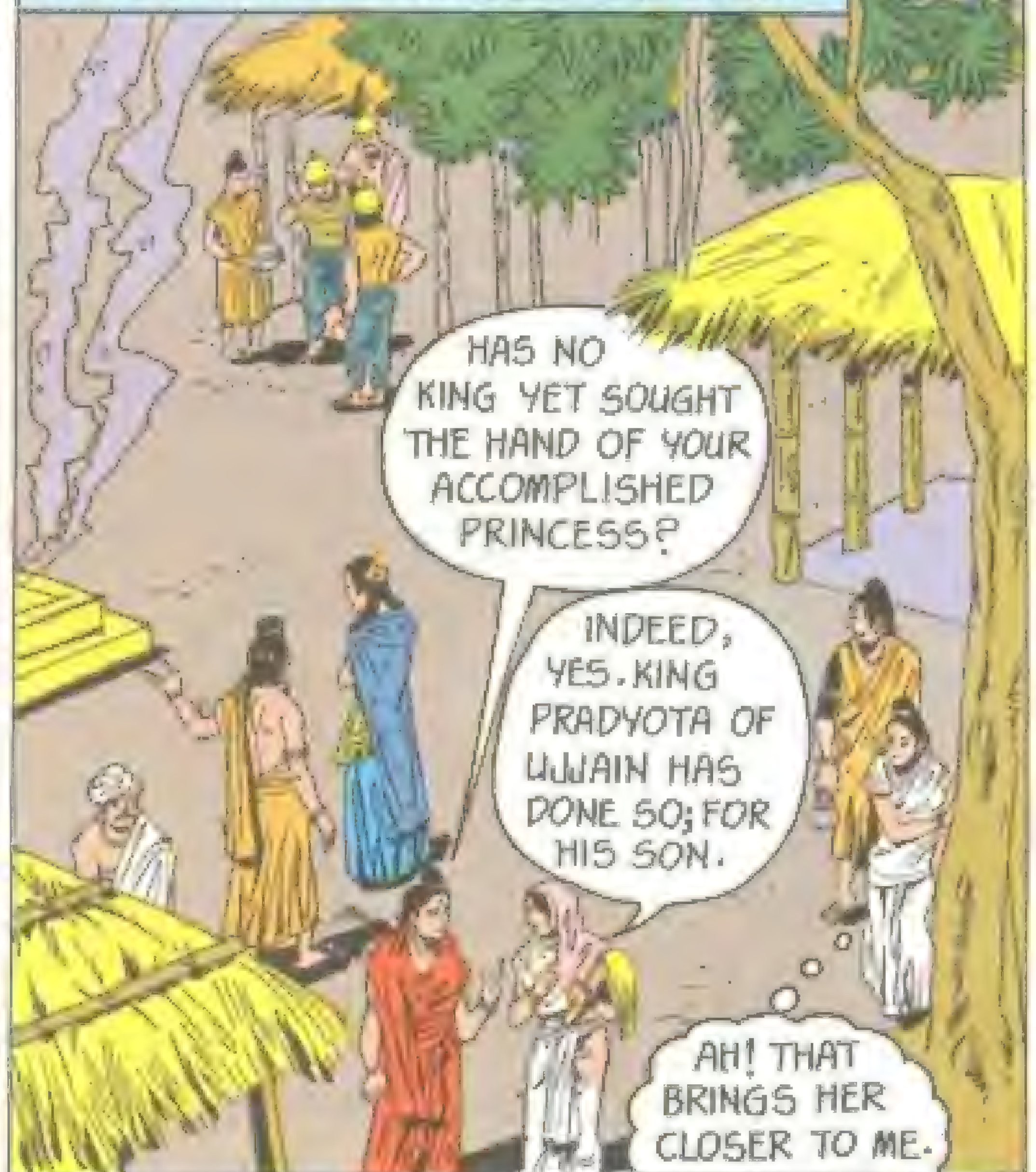
AS PADMAVATI GOT DOWN FROM THE ELEPHANT AND APPROACHED THE HERMIT THERE —

SHE IS BEAUTIFUL AND HAS THE REGAL BEARING.

MAY YOU LIVE LONG. WELCOME TO THE HERMITAGE.

I SALUTE YOU, HOLY ONE.





PADMAVATI MEANWHILE APPROACHED THE CHAMBERLAIN.

HAVE YOU FOUND ANY MENDICANT WHO WILL FAVOUR US BY ACCEPTING OUR GIFTS?

YAUGANDHARAYANA WHO WAS STANDING NEAR BY STEPPED FORWARD.

HERE IS MY CHANCE.

I SEEK A FAVOUR, NOBLE PRINCESS.

THANK YOU. YOUR REQUEST FULFILS THE PURPOSE OF MY SOJOURN HERE.

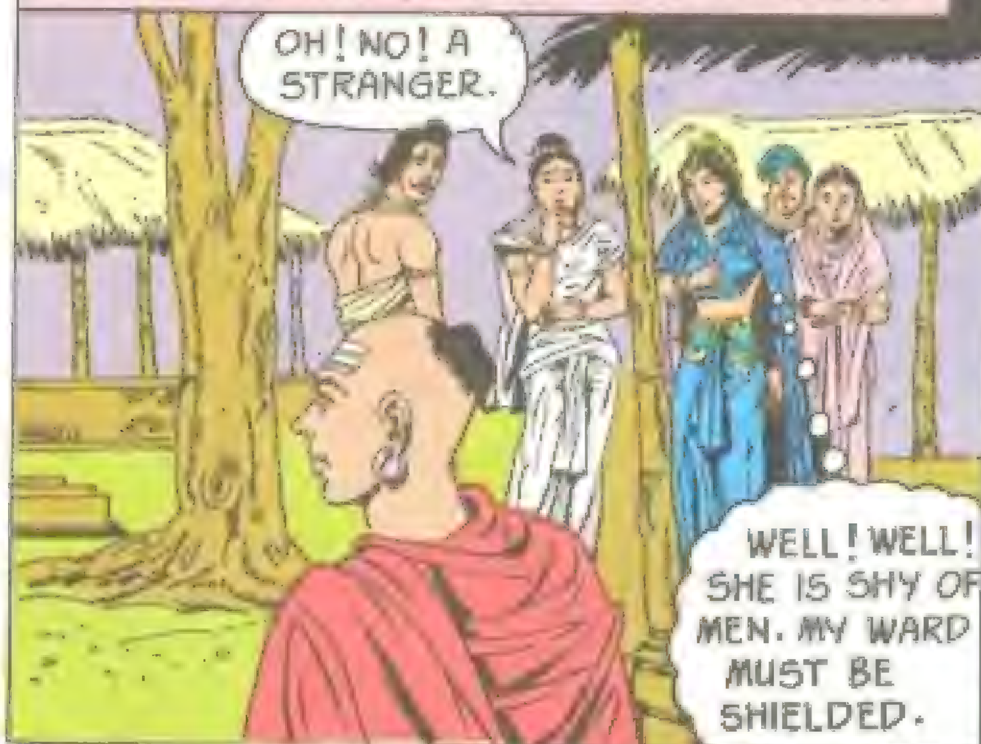
I WANT YOUR HIGHNESS TO LOOK AFTER MY SISTER, AVANTIKA, FOR SOME TIME. HER HUSBAND IS AWAY, AND I AM A MENDICANT.

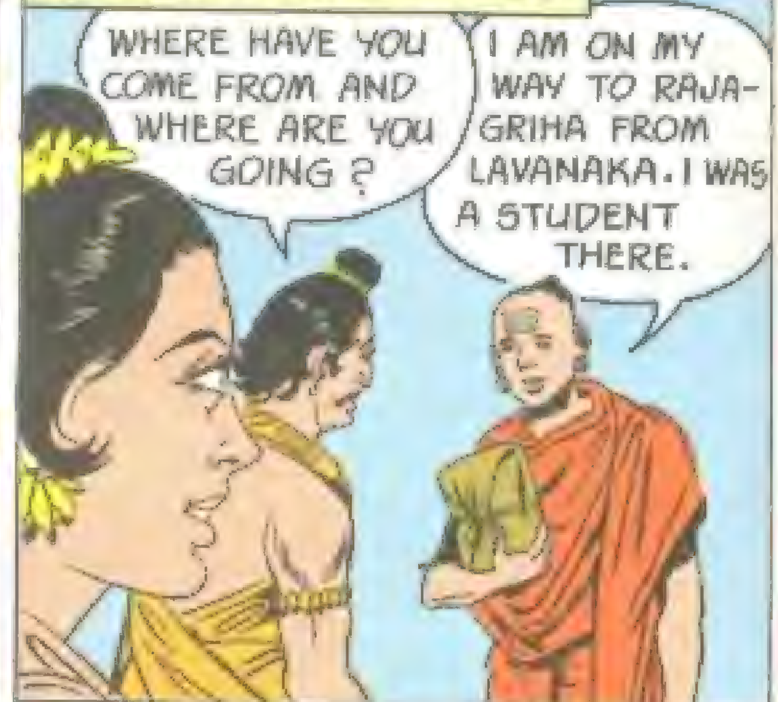
I AM TO BE LEFT HERE! WITH THEM! I SUPPOSE THE WISE MINISTER HAS HIS OWN REASONS.

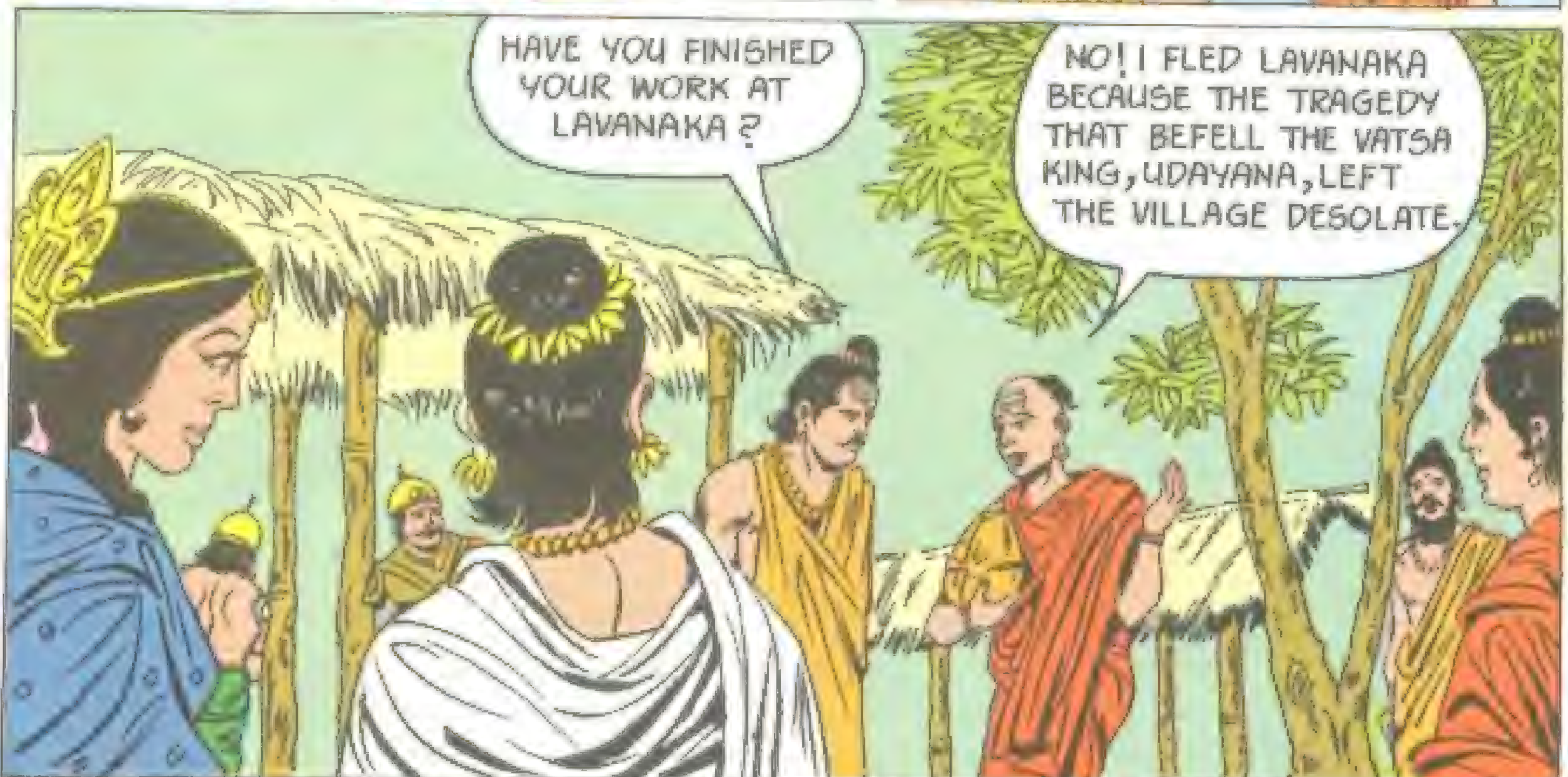
HOW CAN WE AGREE? HOW CAN WE TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY?

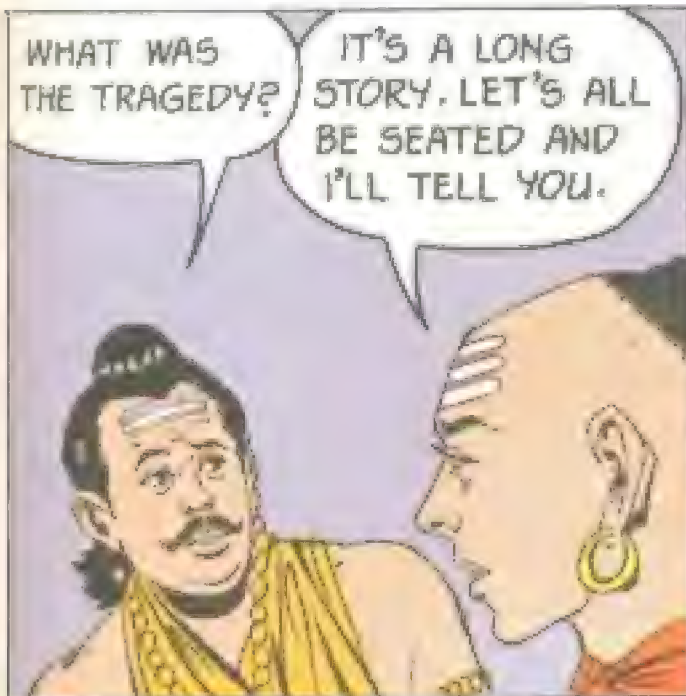
IT IS IMPROPER TO WITHDRAW AN OFFER ALREADY MADE. WE SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE GIRL.


I AM INDEBTED TO YOUR HIGHNESS.
COME TO MY RETINUE TILL YOUR BROTHER RETURNS FOR YOU.
A MENDICANT'S SISTER, AND YET ARISTOCRATIC!


AT THAT MOMENT, THERE CAME A NEW VISITOR TO THE HERMITAGE, A WANDERING SCHOLAR.
OH! NO! A STRANGER.
WELL! WELL! SHE IS SHY OF MEN. MY WARD MUST BE SHIELDED.


KEEN ON GETTING TIDINGS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD, YAUGANDHARAYANA QUESTIONED THE SCHOLAR.
WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I AM ON MY WAY TO RAJAGRIHA FROM LAVANAKA. I WAS A STUDENT THERE.


HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR WORK AT LAVANAKA?
NO! I FLED LAVANAKA BECAUSE THE TRAGEDY THAT BEFELL THE VATSA KING, UDAYANA, LEFT THE VILLAGE DESOLATE.


WHAT WAS THE TRAGEDY?
IT'S A LONG STORY. LET'S ALL BE SEATED AND I'LL TELL YOU.


WHILE THE SCHOLAR TOLD HIS TALE —
MY HEART IS SET ON MARRYING THE BEREFT UDAYANA. BUT WILL HE MARRY AGAIN?

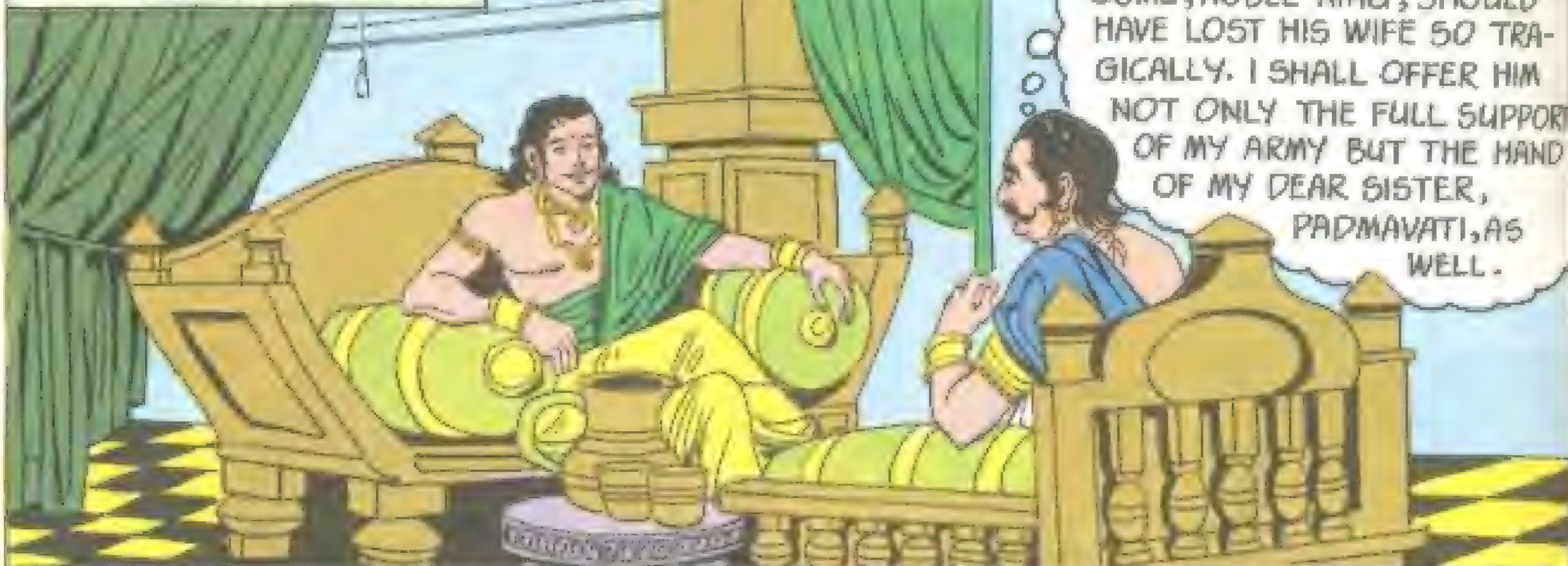

AT LAST HE FINISHED.
WERE IT NOT FOR HIS GOOD MINISTER, RUMANVAN, THE KING WOULD SURELY HAVE GIVEN UP HIS LIFE.
DEAR HUSBAND, HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE! HOW I LONG TO BE SAFE IN YOUR STRONG ARMS.


PADMAVATI SAW THE TEARS ROLL DOWN VASAVADATTA'S CHEEKS.
AVANTIKA! TEARS IN YOUR EYES! YOU ARE TOO TENDER IN YOUR FEELINGS.
YOUR HIGHNESS IS RIGHT.


IF YOUR HIGH-NESS PERMITS, I WOULD LIKE TO GO NOW.
WON'T SHE BE SAD WHEN YOU ARE GONE?
NO. SHE WILL NOT. SHE IS IN GOOD HANDS.
YAUGANDHARAYANA LEFT. THE OTHERS RETIRED FOR THE NIGHT AND SET OUT THE NEXT MORNING FOR RAJAGRIHA.


A FEW DAYS LATER, UDAYANA, VASANTAKA AND A FEW ATTENDANTS REACHED THE COURT OF DARSHAKA.
WELCOME, O VALIANT KING. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR KINGDOM?


I SEEK YOUR SUPPORT TO CRUSH THE UPSTART ARUNI.


DARSHAKA, LIKE MANY OTHERS BEFORE HIM, WAS AT ONCE IMPRESSED BY UDAYANA.
HOW SAD THAT THIS HANDSOME, NOBLE KING, SHOULD HAVE LOST HIS WIFE SO TRAGICALLY. I SHALL OFFER HIM NOT ONLY THE FULL SUPPORT OF MY ARMY BUT THE HAND OF MY DEAR SISTER, PADMAVATI, AS WELL.


MEANWHILE PADMAVATI, VASAVADATTA AND A FEW MAIDS WERE PLAYING IN THE PALACE GARDENS.
THERE. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
ENOUGH, AVANTIKA. I HAVE HAD ENOUGH. I AM TIRED.


AS THEY RESTED UNDER A TREE —
WHY DO YOU STARE AT ME SO?
WITH YOUR FACE FLUSHED YOU LOOK MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER — YOU FUTURE QUEEN OF UJJAINI.


THAT FUTURE IS NOT TO THE LIKING OF OUR PRINCESS. SHE WOULD BE WIFE TO UDAYANA, THE VATSA KING.
WHAT! SHE WANTS TO MARRY MY OWN LORD.
WHY HIM?


BECAUSE HE IS CAPABLE OF DEEP LOVE.
AS IF I DON'T KNOW!


BUT, PRINCESS, SUPPOSING HE IS UGLY?
NOT AT ALL! HE IS THE HANDSOMEST IN THE LAND.


PADMAVATI WAS SURPRISED.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I ALMOST GAVE MYSELF AWAY AND BROKE MY WORD TO YAUGANDHARAYANA. THANK GOD I HAVE AN ANSWER!
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE IN UJJAINI SAYS.


AT THAT MOMENT, A MAID CAME RUNNING TO THEM.
PRINCESS, YOU ARE BETROTHED TO UDAYANA, KING OF VATSA.
HOW IS THAT? HIS GRIEF WAS SO GREAT. COULD HE HAVE FORGOTTEN ME SO SOON?


HE CAME HERE YESTERDAY AND...
DID HE CHOOSE HER HIMSELF?


NO! HE CAME HERE ON SOME OTHER MATTER WHEN OUR KING OFFERED THE HAND OF OUR PRINCESS.
OH! HE IS BLAMELESS THEN.


THE MAID TURNED TO PADMAVATI.
COME AWAY, PRINCESS. THE DAY IS AUSPICIOUS AND THE WEDDING MUST TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY.


THIS THEN WAS THE MINISTER'S PLAN TO SAVE THE STATE; AN ALLIANCE WITH THE MIGHTY KING OF MAGADHA. I HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF STATECRAFT.


VASAVADATTA KEPT AWAY FROM THE WEDDING FESTIVITIES.
ALAS! I HAVE NONE TO TURN TO. I MAY NOT RETURN TO MY PARENTS AND EVEN MY HUSBAND NOW BELONGS TO ANOTHER.
AFTER A WHILE, SHE WENT INDOORS AND TRIED TO SLEEP AWAY HER SORROWS.


THE NEXT MORNING, PADMAVATI, VASAVADATTA AND A FEW MAIDS WERE BACK IN THE GARDEN.
IT IS STRANGE. I HAVE HARDLY KNOWN HIM BUT EVEN A MOMENTARY SEPARATION MAKES ME MISERABLE.
WHAT WOULD SHE KNOW OF THE MISERIES OF SEPAR-ATION?


I WONDER. DID VASAVADATTA LOVE MY LORD AS MUCH AS I DO?
EVEN MORE!


PADMAVATI WAS ONCE AGAIN STARTLED BY HER VEHEMENCE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I HAVE SLIPPED AGAIN. NEVER MIND.
IF SHE DIDN'T, WOULD SHE HAVE ABANDONED HER PARENTS FOR HIM?
SHE WOULD NOT, I SUPPOSE.


JUST THEN, ONE OF THE MAIDS SAW UDAYANA AND VASANTAKA APPROACHING.
LOOK! THE KING...
MY NOBLE LORD! COME, AVANTIKA. SINCE YOU ARE SHY OF MEN WE WILL HIDE IN THAT BOWER.

FROM WHERE THEY WERE, THE TWO PRINCESSES COULD LISTEN TO UDAYANA AND VASANTAKA.









IN THE BOWER —

AND I HOPE IT WILL BE SO FOREVER ! MY SUFFERINGS HAVE BEEN WELL REWARDED. MY ROLE NOW BEGINS TO BE DELIGHTFUL.

THAT WAS NOT VERY GALLANTLY SAID.

BUT PADMAVATI STOOD UP FOR HER HUSBAND.

YOU ARE WRONG. ALL THE MORE GALLANT IS HE. HIS LOVE IS NOT FICKLE AND IS WORTH WINNING.

YOU ARE TRULY A NOBLE ONE, MY FRIEND.

MEANWHILE, REMINDED OF HIS DEAD WIFE, THE KING WAS OVERCOME BY GRIEF. VASANTAKA WAS ALARMED.

YOUR HIGHNESS, YOUR FACE IS WET WITH TEARS ! WAIT HERE. I SHALL FETCH SOME WATER.

PADMAVATI WAS DISTRESSED AND LONGED TO GO TO HIM. BUT —

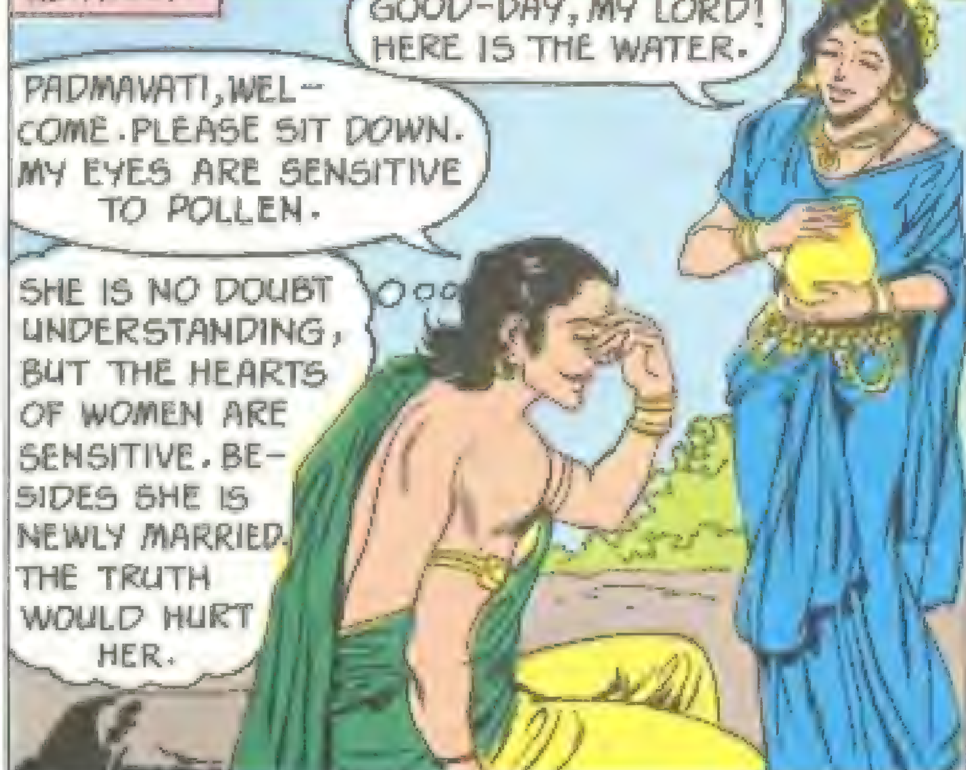
MY LORD WOULD BE EMBARRASSED TO SEE US HERE. LET US SLIP AWAY.

YES. LET'S DO SO. NO. YOU GO TO HIM. HE IS DESOLATE. WE WILL GO AWAY.

AVANTIKA IS RIGHT. YOU SHOULD GO TO HIM.


BUT AFTER WHAT SHE HAD OVERHEARD, PADMAVATI WAS DIFFIDENT.
DO YOU REALLY FEEL I OUGHT TO?
YES. YOU MUST.


AS PADMAVATI WALKED TOWARDS UDAYANA, VASANTAKA RETURNED WITH THE WATER.
MY LADY! YOU ARE IN TIME. SOME POLLEN FLEW INTO HIS HIGHNESS'S EYES. THEY BEGAN TO WATER AND HIS FACE IS WET. PLEASE TAKE THIS TO HIM.
HE IS AS GALLANT AS HIS MASTER.


SHE TOOK THE WATER AND STOOD BEFORE UDAYANA.
GOOD-DAY, MY LORD! HERE IS THE WATER.
PADMAVATI, WEL-COME. PLEASE SIT DOWN. MY EYES ARE SENSITIVE TO POLLEN.
SHE IS NO DOUBT UNDERSTANDING, BUT THE HEARTS OF WOMEN ARE SENSITIVE. BE-SIDES SHE IS NEWLY MARRIED. THE TRUTH WOULD HURT HER.


TO SAVE THE KING FURTHER EMBARRASS-MENT, VASANTAKA CAME TO HIS RESCUE.
KING DARSHAKA AWAITS YOUR HIGHNESS. HE HAS ARRANGED FOR YOU TO MEET HIS FRIENDS THIS AFTERNOON.
THAT IS TRUE. COME, PADMAVATI. LET US GO TO THE PALACE.


MY LORD, IT IS ONLY A HEADACHE THAT SHE SUFFERS FROM. SHE WILL SOON RECOVER.
WHERE IS SHE? TAKE ME TO HER.


BUT WHEN THEY ENTERED HER ROOM —
PADMAVATI HAS NOT YET COME.
SIT DOWN, YOUR HIGHNESS. WAIT HERE FOR HER.


UDAYANA SAT ON THE BED. AFTER A WHILE —
HE HAS FALLEN ASLEEP. THE PRINCESS HAS NOT YET COME. I'LL GO AND GET MYSELF A BLANKET.


MEANWHILE VASAVADATTA, WHO HAD GOT THE MESSAGE, CAME THERE AND MISTOOK UDAYANA FOR PADMAVATI.
THE PRINCESS IS ASLEEP. I'LL SIT BY HER ON THE BED.


SUDDENLY, SHE WAS STARTLED BY UDAYANA'S VOICE.
O VASAVADATTA!
IT IS MY LORD, NOT PADMAVATI. HAS HE SEEN ME? HAVE I BROKEN MY WORD?


UDAYANA CALLED AGAIN.
O PRINCESS OF AVANTI!
THANK GOD! HE SPEAKS IN HIS SLEEP. THERE IS NO ONE HERE. I'LL WAIT FOR A WHILE AND FEED MY HUNGRY HEART AND SENSES.


MY DEAR WIFE. MY BELOVED PUPIL. WHY ARE YOU NOT ADORNED? WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ME? ARE YOU ANGRY.
NO, DEAR ONE, NOT ANGRY BUT SAD, VERY SAD.
I HAVE STAYED HERE TOO LONG. I'D BETTER GO BEFORE I AM DISCOVERED.


AS VASAVADATTA WALKED TO THE DOOR, UDAYANA SUDDENLY WOKE UP AND RAN AFTER HER.
VASAVADATTA! STOP! STAY!


BUT VASAVADATTA HAD ESCAPED.
WAS IT A DREAM OR WAS SHE HERE?

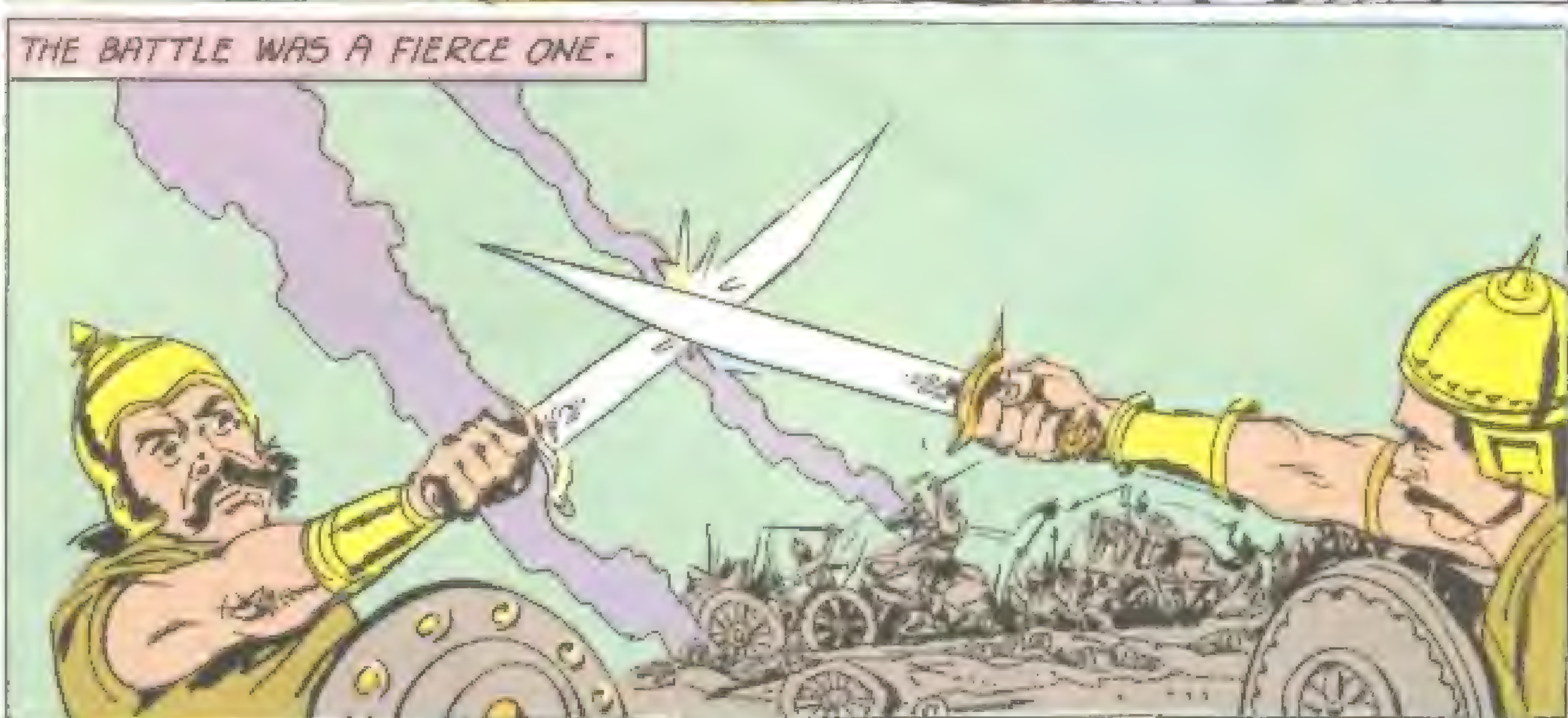

JUST THEN VASANTAKA RETURNED.
FRIEND! I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. VASAVADATTA IS ALIVE. I HAVE JUST SEEN HER. RUMANVAN MUST HAVE LIED TO ME.
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU MUST HAVE DREAMT OF HER.


BUT UDAYANA REFUSED TO GIVE UP THE BELIEF THAT VASAVADATTA WAS ALIVE.
NO. NO! IT STARTED AS A DREAM. BUT I WOKE UP AND IT WAS REAL. HER FACE—PALE AND UNADORNED LIKE A LADY PROTECTING HER VIRTUE WHEN AWAY FROM HER LORD.
YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE. DO NOT MAKE YOURSELF AN OBJECT OF RIDICULE.


AT THAT MOMENT DARSHAKA'S CHAMBERLAIN ENTERED WITH A MESSAGE FROM HIM.
YOUR MINISTER RUMANVAN IS HERE WITH A LARGE ARMY. MY FORCES ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL. GO. MAKE THE VATSA KINGDOM YOURS AGAIN. VICTORY TO YOU.


UDAYANA, NOW THAT HE HAD HOPES OF SEEING VASAVADATTA AGAIN, WAS FILLED WITH A NEW LIFE.
PLEASE CONVEY MY GRATITUDE TO HIS HIGHNESS. HIS HELP WILL NOT BE IN VAIN. I WILL NOT RETURN TO RAJAGRIHA WITH-OUT DEFEATING THAT SCOUNDREL.


AND UDAYANA SET OUT TO WIN BACK HIS KINGDOM.


THE BATTLE WAS A FIERCE ONE.


UDAYANA'S ARMY EMERGED VICTORIOUS.
ARUNI HAS SURRENDERED. LONG LIVE UDAYANA, KING OF VATSA.


BACK IN HIS TENT —
RUMANVAN, MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO LEAVE FOR RAJAGRIHA AT ONCE.


A TRIUMPHANT UDAYANA SOON RETURNED TO RAJAGRIHA.

MEANWHILE, DURING THE WHOLE PERIOD WHEN UDAYANA WAS AWAY, VASAVADATTA HAD BEEN TORTURED BY MIXED FEELINGS.
IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT MY LORD WILL RULE IN GLORY ONCE MORE — BUT WITH PADMAVATI BY HIS SIDE! WHAT IS TO BECOME OF ME? HAS THE MINISTER FORSAKEN ME?
BUT VASAVADATTA HAD WORRIED UNNECESSARILY. A FEW DAYS LATER, AT THE PALACE GATES —
WHO ARE YOU?
WE COME FROM UJJAINI. PLEASE TELL KING UDAYANA THAT A CHAMBERLAIN AND A MATRON FROM THE COURT OF THE MIGHTY PRADYOTA ARE HERE TO SEE HIM, WITH MESSAGES FROM THE KING AND QUEEN.
WHEN THE MESSAGE REACHED UDAYANA —
COULD KING PRADYOTA HAVE HEARD THE NEWS OF MY MARRIAGE SO SOON?
PLEASE REQUEST PADMAVATI TO COME TO ME.
WHEN PADMAVATI CAME —
MY LORD, ARE MY RELATIVES IN UJJAINI WELL?
THEN YOU HAVE HEARD. IT IS NOBLE OF YOU TO THINK OF VASAVADATTA'S RELATIVES AS YOUR OWN.
MY LORD, IS IT PRUDENT TO HAVE ME SEATED BY YOUR SIDE? WOULD IT NOT PAIN THEM TO SEE ME IN THE PLACE OF THEIR BELOVED PRINCESS.
YOU ARE NOT ONLY NOBLE BUT THOUGHTFUL TOO. NO! YOU WILL SIT BY ME. I NEED YOU.

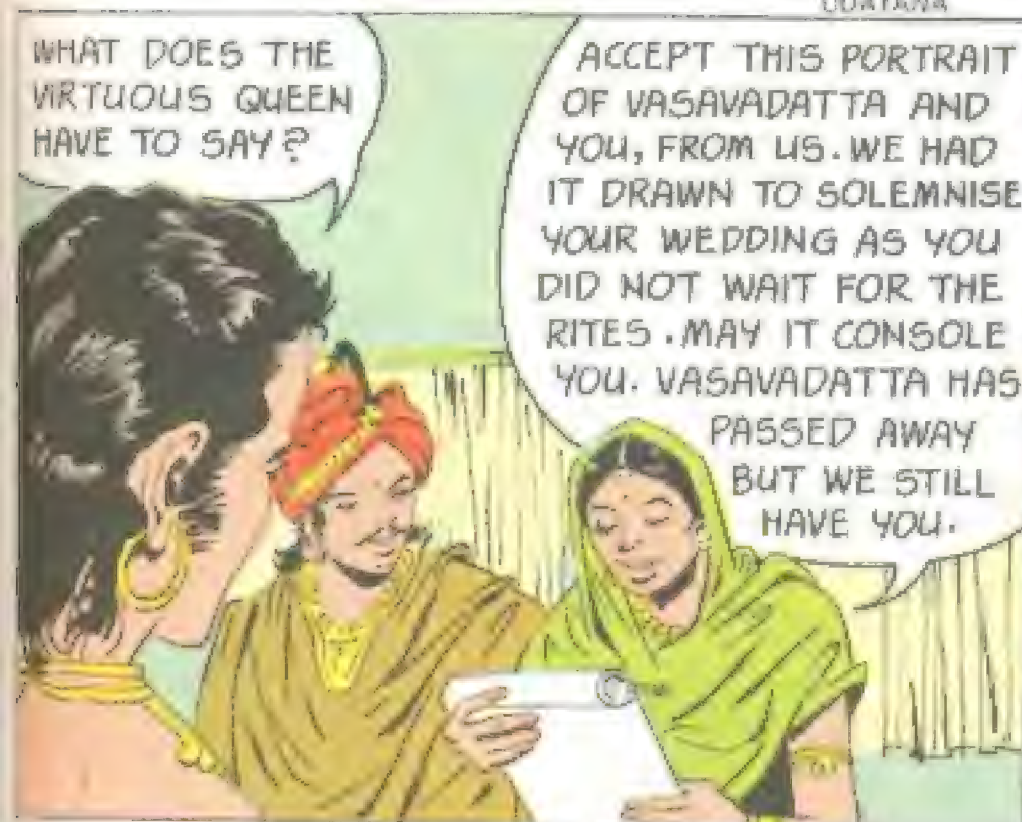

I HAVE SOME SLIGHT REASON TO BE NERVOUS. I ELOPED WITH THEIR DAUGHTER AND FAILED TO PROTECT HER.
THE FAULT IS NOT IN YOU. NO ONE CAN BE SAVED FROM THE CLUTCHES OF FATE.

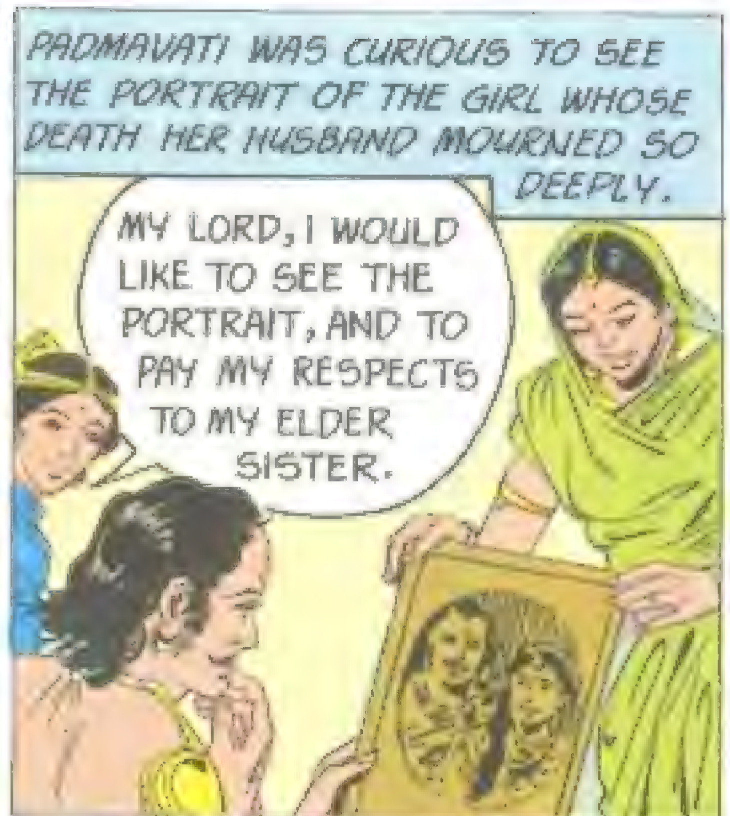

AT THAT MOMENT AN ATTENDANT CAME IN.
THE VISITORS FROM UJJAINI ARE AT THE DOOR.
LEAD THEM IN AT ONCE.


WELCOME. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? I HOPE ALL IS WELL WITH HIS HIGHNESS AND THE QUEEN MOTHER.


THEY ARE WELL, MY LORD. MY KING SENDS HIS CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY OVER YOUR ENEMIES.


HOW GRACIOUS! I ELOPED WITH HIS DAUGHTER AND FAILED TO PROTECT HER. YET THE KING HAS ONLY GOOD WORDS FOR ME.
NOT ONLY THE KING, YOUR HIGHNESS, EVEN THE QUEEN.


WHAT DOES THE VIRTUOUS QUEEN HAVE TO SAY?
ACCEPT THIS PORTRAIT OF VASAVADATTA AND YOU, FROM US. WE HAD IT DRAWN TO SOLEMNISE YOUR WEDDING AS YOU DID NOT WAIT FOR THE RITES. MAY IT CONSOLE YOU. VASAVADATTA HAS PASSED AWAY BUT WE STILL HAVE YOU.

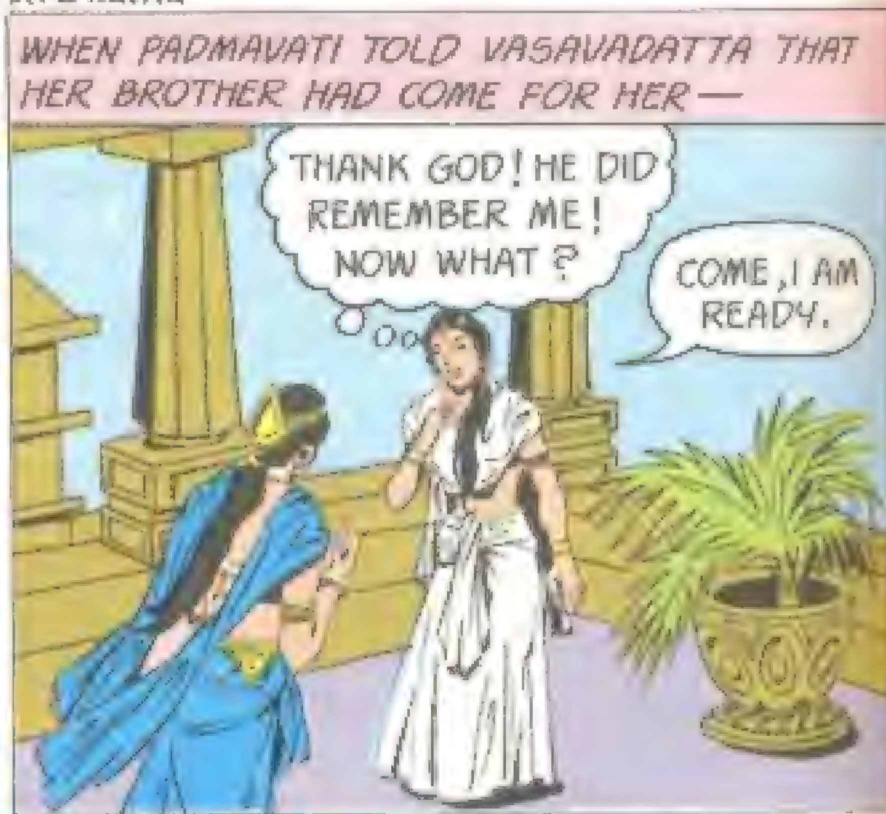

PADMAVATI WAS CURIOUS TO SEE THE PORTRAIT OF THE GIRL WHOSE DEATH HER HUSBAND MOURNED SO DEEPLY.
MY LORD, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PORTRAIT, AND TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO MY ELDER SISTER.


THE MATRON SHOWED HER THE PICTURE. PADMAVATI WAS STARTLED.
SHE IS THE REPLICA OF AVANTIKA, MY COMPANION.


YOUR COMPANION, AVANTIKA? WHERE IS SHE? SEND FOR HER AT ONCE.
BUT SHE WILL NOT APPEAR BEFORE MEN. IT IS LIKE THIS...
PADMAVATI TOLD UDAYANA HOW AVANTIKA CAME TO BE IN HER CHARGE.


JUST AS SHE FINISHED, AN ATTENDANT CAME IN.
YOUR HIGHNESS, A MENDICANT OF UJJAINI IS AT THE DOOR. HE HAS COME FOR HIS SISTER.


IT IS AVANTIKA'S BROTHER, MY LORD.
YOU GO AND FETCH AVANTIKA. I'LL HAVE THE MENDICANT BROUGHT IN.


WHEN PADMAVATI TOLD VASAVADATTA THAT HER BROTHER HAD COME FOR HER—
THANK GOD! HE DID REMEMBER ME! NOW WHAT?
COME, I AM READY.


YAUGANDHARAYANA AND VASAVADATTA ENTERED THE ROOM AT THE SAME TIME.
YAUGANDHARAYANA! VASAVADATTA! THIS IS NO DREAM.
OUR PRINCESS! SHE'S ALIVE!
AVANTIKA— VASAVADATTA! NO!


A DEAD SILENCE FOLLOWED THESE REMARKS. THEN PADMAVATI SUDDENLY CAME AND FELL AT VASAVADATTA'S FEET.
YOUR MAJESTY, FORGIVE ME FOR TREATING YOU AS A MERE COMPANION.
RISE, MY SISTER. YOU LOVED ME WELL AND I WAS HAPPY HERE.

THEN YAUGANDHARAYANA SPOKE.

UDAYANA TURNED TO THE MATRON AND THE CHAMBERLAIN.

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